

President: Mr Christopher Elliott

**Minutes of the Masters committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th February 2023
via Zoom, Commencing at 19.00.**

Present:

C Robinson	CR	Chair
P Robbins	PR	Vice Chair
C Ralph	CaR	Cornwall
S Haigh	SH	Devon
B Armstrong	BA	Gloucester
K Adams	KA	Wiltshire

2023 / MC

1. Apologies

D Gibbs	Dorset
A Parham	Somerset
P O'Grady	Somerset

2. Declaration of Interest

2.1 None received

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2022

3.1 Agreed as a true and accurate record proposed by BA, seconded by CaR

4. Matters arising

4.1 No matters raised

5. County Reports

5.1 Somerset:

Somerset swimmers have been getting back into the swing of things competing in many competitions during 2022.

The Royal Navy gala saw Wincanton Masters sc winning the Lindsay Lant visitors trophy. Swimmers also completed at Swim Wales championships, Gloucester Masters open meet, Long course Master championships in Aberdeen, Devon master age groups, SW regional meet and Short course masters championships in Sheffield.

In the Intercounty master championships Somerset were 15th out of 33 county teams. We are in the process of organising a meet for the Somerset and Gloucester masters age group championships. We are hoping to return to a date at the beginning of September as this was always a good time for swimmers to get race practice before the SWR and SC Master Championships in Sheffield in October.

5.2 Dorset:

The last membership survey of Dorset clubs (2021) showed significant losses of Masters swimmers in the county but one or two clubs are now showing a revival in participation - clubs have again been asked confirm Masters numbers for 2023.

Poole SC is to hold a Masters Open Meet on Saturday 17 June 2023 at Dorchester LC, a six lane pool with electronic timing. The event will incorporate Dorset Masters Championships. If successful the event will be scheduled annually.

5.3 Gloucester:

For most Gloucestershire swimmers, 2022 was a bit of a rebuilding year as many of us were still getting back into the habit of racing.

In the early part of the year swimmers raced at Royal Navy's Millfield meet, and Swim Wales' long course event at Swansea.

Some of the main competitions this year were the British Champs in Aberdeen in June where GMSC's Nia Westlake (25-29) came away with four gold and 2 silver medals from her six swims and the European Champs in Rome where 11 Glos swimmers competed with Jayne Stephenson (GMSC 65-69) achieving 3 silver medals from her 3 swims.

A packed Ponds Forge played host to 23 Gloucestershire Masters for the Masters National Champs in October and our swimmers definitely punched above their weight to bring back 6 gold, 10 silver and 5 bronze medals. The outstanding swimmer of the meet was Jessica Partridge (GMSC 45-49) with 3 golds and a silver, closely followed by Tony Cherrington (GMSC 80-84) with 2 gold and 2 silver medals.

The Intercounties meet at Millfield on November 13th and was as competitive as ever with many best times swam. GCASA came 2nd on the day to a strong Devon Team, Jess Shaw was Team GCASA MVP on the day winning 3 individual events and set regional records in each swim. Once the results were collated Nationally Devon came top with 1972 points and we came a creditable 9th with 1680 points.

Regional Winners

Jayne Stephenson (65yrs+) 50m butterfly 42.72

Colin Stephenson (55yrs+) 50m freestyle 27.92

Fergal Cawley (45yrs+) 50m backstroke 31.17

Jess Shaw (18yrs+) 50m freestyle 26.13 (SWR)

Sue Hodge (65yrs+) 50m freestyle 34.33

Simon Wintle (55yrs+) 50 backstroke 31.59

Jess Shaw (18yrs+) 50m backstroke 28.80 (SWR)

Gill Ferris (65yrs+) 50m backstroke 44.34

Simon Wintle (55yrs+) 50 breaststroke 34.08 (SWR)

Jo Seymour (55yrs+) 50m breaststroke 39.68

Jess Shaw (18yrs+) 50m breaststroke 33.22 (SWR)

Matt Bailey (45yrs+) 50m butterfly 28.89

Anne Nicholls (65yrs+) 50m breaststroke 47.24

Tom Morrow (65yrs+) 50m breaststroke 38.68

Fergal Cawley (45yrs+) 50m freestyle 26.37 (SWR)

Mens 220+ Freestyle Team; Womens 140+ Freestyle Team; Mixed 260+ Medley Team; Mens 220+ Medley Team

National Winners

Jess Shaw (18yrs+) 50m freestyle 26.13 (SWR)

Simon Wintle (55yrs+) 50 backstroke 31.59

Jess Shaw (18yrs+) 50m backstroke 28.80 (SWR)

Jo Seymour (55yrs+) 50m breaststroke 39.68

Looking forward to next year, British Champs will be at Sheffield in June, the World Champs in Fukuoka, Japan in August and, most importantly, we will try to run the Gloucester & Somerset Masters event for 2023.

5.4 Devon:

Devon County Masters have had an extremely successful year, culminating in their winning of the National Intercounty Masters Championship by a considerable margin. Devon romped home with 1972 points, 42 points above second placed Hampshire. Although it was a team event, one swimmer, Warren Barrett needs special mention. Warren put in four stellar individual performances. In the 35+ age group he secured three national first places with exceptional swims in the freestyle, backstroke and butterfly plus narrowly missing out on another win in the breaststroke. He was also part of two successful relay teams that gained second place nationally.

Throughout the year, many Devon swimmers have enjoyed getting back to normal after the restrictions of the pandemic and competed at club, county, regional and national level.

At the start of the year, the County continued its support of its Masters swimmers by allowing them to compete as Masters during the County Age Group Championships in the 800 and 1500m events.

During the year Simon Veale claimed the short-course 400m freestyle and 400m IM British records for the 65 to 69 year age group while Kalon Veale, moving up into the 30-34 yrs age group, was successful in gaining three British short-course records in the 50m, 100m and 200m backstroke.

In the National Decathlon competition, Kalon Veale also secured fifth place in the men's competition with Simon Veale in seventh and Dan John in 20th. Totnes also came fourth in the men's team event.

Kim Saddler of Exe Masters took the highest position of 28th in the women's competition with Exe Masters women taking 13th place. On the list of regional records, five Devon swimmers are down as setting records, although this may be more as some records have not yet been updated.

Our County Open Meet, incorporating the Devon County Masters Championships, held at the Life Centre in Plymouth, was successful and well attended.

In addition, there were a healthy number of Devon swimmers competing in the Swim England Short Course Nationals with many bringing home medals.

2022 was a fantastically successful year for Devon which we'll be working hard to repeat in 2023.

5.5 Cornwall:

There continues to be an active masters group of swimmers in Cornwall and below I report only some of their achievements

Open water

Fran Baker (Carrick masters) was awarded the SW Region OW Lynne Elliott trophy for her achievements at the SW Region OW event in July 2022



6.

British Masters Championships 2022 – Aberdeen 17th -19th June

A number of Cornish club swimmers attended this event but only Ali Phesse (50-54 yrs) was swimming for her Cornish Club Carn Brea and Helston, gaining a podium position and a silver medal in the 100m Back stroke

Europeans in Rome August 2022

Paul Hatton representing Caradon and Peter Stephens representing Carrick swam in Rome in the following events

3k Open water swim Paul (50 -54 years) came 10th Peter Stephens (75-79 years) came 5th

800m free style Paul 13th and Peter 5th taking over 12 seconds off his entry time

400m free Peter 4th and 200m free 4th more than 2 seconds faster than his entry time

National Masters Championships (25m) 28th Oct -30th Oct 2022. Ponds Forge – Sheffield

Once again a number of Cornish swimmers attended with only Helen Kula-Przezowski representing Caradon (60-64) and swimming for her Cornish club. Helen gained several podium positions including 100IM 2nd place 1.22.40 and 100m back stroke

National intercounty team Millfield on 13th November

31 swimmers represented Cornwall at the SW part of the National intercounty competition. We came 27th out of 33 counties. The team comprised of 13 men and 17 women aged 18 to 76 years. Many swimmers had never swum for their County before but everyone in the team supported each other to swim to their full potential. Clubs represented were :

Bude; David Speare, James Sirmon, Zerren Bell

Caradon,; Helen Kula-Przezowski, Helen Roseman, Sheryl Taylor

Carrick masters; Aiden Coxhead, Alan Dodd, Alex O’Kelly, Alison Atfield, Caroline Gilbert, Finn Wightman(also St Austell), Fran Baker, Graeme Milne, Jonathan Webb, Julia Drage, Malcolm Barton, Megan Cookson, Monique Clark, Peter Stephens, Sally Powell, Sarah Quartermaine, Talan Annear (also St Austell), Tania Biagini-Williams, Tom Parker

Launceston ; Mark Knight

Newquay; Emily and Natalie Harbisher, Pauline Freestone

North Cornwall Dragons; Kevin Instance

St Austell; Willow Massy



Records from Cornish swimmers

Natalie Harbisher Newquay regional record for SC 25-29 200m fly. –from SW regional event on 9th Oct <https://www.swimwest.org.uk/file/masters-meet-sept-2022-results.pdf>

2022 Cherriman Award

A life of dedication to the Masters community has seen Catherine Ralph be awarded the 2022 Cherriman award.

The annual award is given to an exceptional individual who inspires others or works tirelessly behind the scenes to help the Masters community.

Catherine has been doing exactly that, undertaking multiple roles during her journey – swimming, team manager, coach, representative, and administrator. Her work in these roles has been across all levels from club, county, regional and national.



7.

Finally

CCCASA Master Championships 12th March 2023- Bodmin pool Warm up 2pm
ALL ENTRIES should be made on-line using the following link. Entries open on 1st January 2023 <https://bsbasa.org/meet/cornwallcc23>

5.6 Wiltshire:
Apologies for no written report.

The situation in the County with Masters is improving and they managed to field a team in the 2022 Inter counties competition.

Wiltshire have held a Masters gala. Entries are looking positive for the March meet which has to be held in 3 blocks. They are considering removing the 25m events. A discussion took place about this.

6. Masters Development

6.1 Unfortunately without a Masters Secretary / Representative coming forward it was not felt that there would be much development happening unless Counties led it.

7. Competitions:

7.1 Individual Open Meet

7.1.1 Millfield Pool booked for 8th October 2023

7.1.2 If this committee is not happy to use Hytek for all Masters competitions then they will have to find someone to do the entire process on Sports Sys. SH objected to this. CR explained that the reason the Region moved to Hytek was lack of people to operate the other system.

7.1.3 We received complaints about lack of officials at the 2022 event. Reps will also need to talk to officials in their own Counties to officiate at the event. Officials are all volunteers and we struggle to get them for age group events despite advertising. SH stated that the officials do not have to be licenced for Masters events.

7.2 Inter County Competition

7.2.1 SH stated that SE Masters are insisting that this is held on Sports Sys . Please see 7.1.2

7.2.2 There were problems at the 2022 event when the recorder failed to arrive because of a family emergency but BA and another volunteer stepped up to assist with this. There were problems with the records but C Vickery and S Millett managed to amend as the system had stored all of the results.

7.2.3 There were problems with the new national volunteer who inputs the results as well. It was pointed out that Hytek was used in 2021 and no problems with the previous volunteer.

7.2.4 CR also advised that at a recent meeting of County Secs and Chairs they had agreed that there should be someone in every County who can assist with putting all entries for this event on disk. CaR said she would still have problems with getting the assistance.

7.2.5 Despite all of the problems with this event the National Competition was won by Devon. Many Congratulations from the Region.

7.2.6 SH stated that the 2023 event will be on 12th November – pool booked

8. South West Masters Decathlon Trophy Winner 2022

8.1 CR asked the County Reps to look into this as she does not know anything about it and she is only facilitating the continuation of this committee in the absence of a lead.

9. New Masters Rep

9.1 To date no one has come forward. We will advertise but the County Reps need to talk amongst their members to promote the position as well.

10. AOB

- 10.1 Committee Terms of Reference – the members present felt that these were still fit for purpose but changing only 2 meetings to max of one physical meeting per annum
- 10.2 Masters records not updated on the system but the office have issued certificates. CR will speak to the office staff.
- 10.3 Cornwall only has 2 pools that are suitable for competitions therefore they are lucky to get one afternoon for their event and there is also a lack of efficient timing equipment. The pools need investment in them and the equipment. Wiltshire seconded this sentiment as they have a similar problem.

The meeting closed at 20.00 but it was agreed that there should be another meeting via Zoom later in the year prior to the competitions